A LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA MISSIONS FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO DAVID A. BOLTON

Since 1998, the California Missions Foundation has been dedicated to preserving our California Missions and related historical sites. During 18 years, CMF is proud to have partnered with so many individuals and Foundations that together have helped our organization fulfill its goals and objectives. Along the way, our historical treasurers have benefitted from this combined effort. To all those involved, we say thank you.

As we take time to proudly look back on the preservation successes of 2015, we also cast an eye on the future. With any aging building, on-going care is always needed. CMF is braced and ready to continue to work hard toward saving our California Missions and related historical sites for future generations. Your support is the backbone of our combined future.

2015 was a historic and memorable year for CMF. Together with our partner Foundations and individuals, we spearheaded dozens of projects up and down the coast, from historic structure repairs to priceless conservation of art and artifacts. Our All Aboard the Bus educational program enjoyed a successful year as we were able to send more than 4,000 4th grade students and more than 500 teachers on important field trips to their local missions.

Also in 2015, CMF welcomed the California Mission Studies Association and its members under the CMF name and umbrella, merging to form a single united organization dedicated to Mission preservation, research and studies.

The new and expanded CMF also worked closely this past year with our counterparts in Mexico to begin and lead a Bi National effort to receive an UNESCO Nomination for the entire El Camino Real de las Californias as a World Heritage Cultural Corridor.

As we close the books on another year, we are motivated and encouraged to continue to provide necessary support for the on-going preservation, conservation and restoration of our California Missions and related historical sites, as well as for research and education. Everyone should share in the successes of CMF in 2015, as we again say thank you for your continued support and interest in our Foundation and these important historical treasures.

Kindest regards,

BOARD CHAIRMAN MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON, FAIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO DAVID A. BOLTON

In Memoriam
The CMF Family mourns the passing of long-time CMF Board Member and Missions preservationist

DAVID L. BELARDES
(1948-2015)
On October 20, 2015, at the site of the original Presidio in San Diego, the California Missions Foundation and the Mexico-based Corredor Historico CAREM, A.C. announced a Bi-National Initiative to achieve a UNESCO World Heritage Nomination for El Camino Real de las Californias. This multi-year, Bi-National Initiative will include partnering with government agencies in both the U.S. and Mexico, including Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia or INAH, US/ICOMOS, California State Parks, the National Parks Service as well as the San Diego Maritime Museum, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Historical Organizations, Native American groups and many other organizations. In addition, this Bi-National Initiative will include community members from a variety of backgrounds including historians, Native American groups and other experts in both countries.

Unlike other Caminos Reales in the Americas, and unique to California, El Camino Real de las Californias had both a land and maritime component. World Heritage Designation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signifies being of special cultural or physical significance. There are nearly 1,000 designated sites worldwide, including 33 in Mexico and 23 in the United States. El Camino Real de las Californias would be the first Bi-National Nomination for the two countries.

CMF and its preservation partner foundations, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the Brewster West Foundation, the Linden Root Dickinson Foundation, the Frances and Charles D. Field Foundation, The Charles D. and Frances K. Field Fund, The Hearst Foundations, the Kelly Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, the Dan Murphy Foundation, the John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and an anonymous donor foundation, distributed a wide range of grants together in 2015.

Mission San Antonio de Padua
In 2014, work began on the first phase of the five-phase multi-year seismic retrofit project at Mission San Antonio de Padua. Most of the work in stabilizing the structure has been accomplished. Work now begins on the preservation of the mission’s decorative features. CMF awarded Mission San Antonio a grant to restore the decorative wall and surfaces of the parish church. Work on this project began in January 2016 with onsite surface and technique testing. After testing, full scale mock-ups were produced. Soon, the work of cleaning the existing historic wall a ceiling decorations and infill painting of specific damaged areas will begin and Mission San Antonio de Padua will be one step closer to completion.

Mission San Luis Obispo
The staff of Mission San Luis Obispo has noticed water damage in part of the 1780s adobe walls and in an adjacent annex that dates to c1893-1897. This water damage has grown, despite three years of serious drought and various efforts to identify possible causes of the water intrusion. A recent assessment suggests that the cause of the damage may be the wicking of ground water up through the adobe wall. The adobe wall is covered in a concrete wainscoting, which may be the root of the problem. A CMF grant will fund exploratory tests to confirm this assessment and part of the remediation treatment to stop the wicking to protect the structures from further damage and to restore damaged areas.
**Native American Family Housing at Mission San Juan Bautista**

Today, the core of Mission San Juan Bautista, stands as a visible reminder of the mission period in San Juan Bautista’s history. Although the church and much of the adjacent quadrangle have been preserved, much of the larger mission complex now lies underneath generations of buildings and roads that were developed since the 1700s. As luck would have it, however, the area upon which the Native American Family Housing once stood was never developed. The adobe structures themselves are long gone, but the site, known today as the Taix lot, is a rich archeological resource. What lies underground, accessible by archeological tools such as shovels, trowels, and ground penetrating radar, is a glimpse into how some of the Native Americans who were a part of the mission’s community lived.

Through a CMF grant from the Field Fund and a partnership between the Parish, California State Parks, and the Amah-Mutsun Tribal Band, the archeological resources on the Taix Lot (located on California State Parks property) have been surveyed. The result is a broader understanding of the living conditions, lifestyles, and labor for a segment of the Native American population at the historic Mission San Juan Bautista c.1815-1824.

Along with the archeological survey, the grant funded a comprehensive project report, authored by Glenn J. Farris. Farris delved into the mission’s records to trace the most likely individuals who lived in these adobe apartments and to develop information related to their daily lives and work.

The report also outlines suggestions for the use of the lot for future interpretive programming that speaks specifically to the lived experiences of Ohlone, Yokuts, and other tribes who were brought to live at the Mission and the “tangible connections” to their living descendents. The CMF grant will allow for the future marking of the structures and suitable interpretive signage to be developed in cooperation with local stakeholders. Once completed, this area will allow for a richer, more in-depth understanding of life at Mission San Juan Bautista for its many visitors.

**Native American Family Housing at Mission San Miguel**

In 2003, a developer illegally graded an area of Mission San Miguel where the East Wing of the Native American quarters once stood. This activity destroyed as many as 31 archaeologically intact rooms. The unauthorized grading resulted in several years of legal proceedings. Eventually, the original owners lost their interest in the property and negotiations with the new owner resulted in providing funding for a comprehensive mitigation package that included archeological investigations. CMF administered the project which had two primary goals: (1) to provide a measured comparison between intact and disturbed areas of the Native Quarters so that future generations could understand what was lost and what is still present and (2) to provide information on the Native cultural traditions and practices at Mission San Miguel.

Field work, monitored by representatives of the Salinan Nation under the supervision of Donna Haro, was completed in June 2015. The work completed in this investigation confirms that significant archaeological and cultural losses occurred. To put this into perspective, the excavation of three square meters in an undamaged room of the North Wing resulted in many undisturbed features and hundreds of artifacts. In the disturbed East Wing, there was significant loss of archaeological data as well as cultural information. The loss to the Native Americans, scholars, students, and the general public contributes to the sense of tragedy.

All was not lost. It is clear from the features and artifacts that were recovered, that there are meaningful questions that can be addressed through this investigation. Future study will consider room function, types and functions of fire pits, placement of fire pits, number of habitation surfaces within a room. This will tell us much about the lived experiences of Native Americans at Mission San Miguel.
Mission Santa Barbara

Time had taken its toll on the Great Crucifix at Mission Santa Barbara. A build-up of dirt and dust and some paint loss dulled its once vibrant colors. Previous modifications and broken pieces also needed repair. A CMF grant funded a full restoration of the Crucifix. Conservators performed a thorough cleaning to remove dirt and dust from its surface. Once cleaned, conservators consolidated the original paint to the wood substrate. Infill painting in damaged areas was performed, a missing thumb was repaired and damage to the Christ’s shoulders, caused by previous modifications, was fixed. Conservators have completed the painstaking work of restoration and the results are outstanding. The Crucifix is on display in the chapel at Mission Santa Barbara.

Mission San Juan Bautista

With school-group and public visitation on the rise, Mission San Juan Bautista is developing a committed group of docent volunteers to conduct public educational tours of the Mission complex. These docents will also help the Parish of San Juan Bautista extend public education and awareness of the California Missions by hosting multiple community events. The CMF grant will provide volunteer docents with the necessary training, instructional aids, administrative support, and supplies to conduct effective interpretive programs to the public.

Mission Soledad

With a grant from CMF, volunteers at Mission Soledad have upgraded lighting throughout the museum. Overhead lighting was replaced with period correct chandeliers and case lighting was upgraded to lower heat emitting and more efficient LED systems. Upgraded lighting has improved the overall aesthetic of the museum and protected museum collections by limiting their exposure to harmful heat and ultraviolet and infrared light.

In addition to the grant for museum lighting, CMF also awarded Mission Soledad a Linden Root Dickinson Foundation-funded grant for an archaeological survey, including a partial excavation of Mission Soledad’s West Wing. The purpose of this survey was to gain a broader understanding of what the larger mission complex looked like and how it functioned in its historic period. Although there are no plans to rebuild the West Wing, the grant did allow for the design and installation of interpretive panels that feature artistic renderings of the mission quadrangle. These signs help parishioners and the visiting public understand what the mission looked like during its heyday.

Mission San Gabriel

A niche near the front of Mission San Gabriel has long been empty. Old photos of the mission show the niche filled with a five-foot-tall sculpture of Junipero Serra and a Native American child. That statue was damaged in an earthquake and for the last several years it has sat behind a building next to the mission gift shop. A CMF grant will provide the necessary funds to restore the cast stone sculpture. Once completed, mission staff will return it to the empty niche near the front of the mission.
At each California mission, cultural resources extend beyond buildings and the objects on display in their museums. All missions must house and care for a variety of documents, objects of art, and artifact. These objects are often stored behind the scenes. Visitors may not always be aware of the work it takes to care for these important aspects of California history. This year, CMF funded a multiphase project at La Purisima to bring its archival facilities up to current museum standards. Park employees began this work with an inventory of the Park’s archival collection, including updating condition reports and documenting individual objects with new photographs. Phase 2 of the project will entail upgrading the way individual objects are stored. The park will install a rack system for storing framed works and they will also upgrade boxes and packing materials for the long-term storage of textiles, lithic objects, leather objects, and paper materials. During Phase 3 of the project, park staff will also carry out a full reconciliation of the local collection with California State Parks’ collections database.

**La Purisima Mission State Historic Park**

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**El Presidio de Santa Barbara**

Environmental review is currently being undertaken for the relocation of the 1888 Bonilla House, located on the grounds of El Presidio de Santa Barbara. The house is being moved to facilitate the reconstruction of 245 feet of the historic Second Outer Defense Wall and to develop a series of landscape paseos that will circumnavigate the outer walls of the Presidio. CMF is funding a focused archaeological study that will evaluate the effects of moving the Bonilla House and help ensure that intact archaeological resources beneath the building are protected during and after the building is moved. This study represents a critical step in the Presidio’s larger capital project to rebuild key aspects of the historic El Presidio de Santa Barbara.

**Mission Santa Clara**

Measuring 15 feet by 8 feet, Mission Santa Clara’s painting, *The Holy Family,* is as large as it is beautiful. Visible sagging in the canvas and discolored varnish, however, necessitate its restoration. A CMF grant will fund its restoration, which conservators will perform in multiple phases. Because of its size, the restoration will be done on-site. First, conservators...
Mission Carmel

The Ecce Homo (Behold the Man), depicts Jesus crowned in thorns before his crucifixion. It is one of several devotional paintings that are part of Mission Carmel’s museum collections. The painting was originally designed as a sarga, supported by a wooden dowel and case into which it is rolled for transport. Painted c.1700s, the accumulation of dirt and the development of cracks and frayed edges, over the years, threatened the integrity of the painting. Treatment consisted of removing the dirt and oxidized varnish, consolidating the paint on the canvas and case, filling in the cracks, retouching, applying a coat of matte varnish, and reinforcing the canvas with wooden stretcher bars. The results of the conservation are remarkable.

Mission Santa Clara staff and the painting conservators expect the painting to be fully restored by summer 2016.

Mission San Luis Rey

A CMF grant will help fund a collaboration between the Old Mission SLR Historic Foundation and the CSU San Marcos, Anthropology Department to work on a multi-year project at the historic Lavanderia. The first year will involve planning and research under the guidance of Professor Ad Muniz. Dr. Muniz and his students will focus initially on researching various aspects of the Lavanderia and developing a plan that will include cultural interpretation, ecological restoration, historic preservation, and education. This will include recommendations for interpretative signage for the Lavanderia which will help demonstrate how early inhabitants used the area and serve to enhance the visitor experience at the Mission. New signage will include a cast-bronze sign at the entrance to the Lavanderia, along with interpretative signs in the Lavanderia area. This project is as much about process as product. It allows students to learn by doing and it will yield interpretive signage that will help the mission’s many visitors have a greater understanding of Native American experiences during the mission era.
In 2015, CMF moved a step closer to completing its administration of the National Park Service’s Save America’s Treasures Grants. Previous SAT Grants obtained by CMF aided important work at Missions San Miguel, Carmel, and San Luis Rey. As in 2014, CMF’s SAT efforts in 2015 focused on Mission Santa Barbara.

Mission Santa Barbara’s Phase II of the Convento Exterior Wall and Pillar Repair Project was completed in early August 2015. Re-surfacing of entire exterior of front wing of the south Convento, including walls, pillars in a lime-based render. Removal of cement based mortar, sounding and removal of loose, deteriorated, and delaminating cement based rendering on north elevation walls and columns. Partial or full replacement of severely eroded sandstone blocks, replace discovered damaged and deteriorated brick. Preparation of surface and application of whitewash/lime based paint to first and second floor, recoat wood railings, window exteriors, and restore metal window grills as specified.

The final stage of Phase II, and completion of the project included, treatments as required for poultice cleaning, applied two full coats of poultice cleaner, raking of damaged pointing mortar, partial or full replacement of severely eroded sandstone blocks, replaced damaged and deteriorated brick, repointing of opened mortar joints, consolidation of disintegrating/disaggregating sandstone, and patched adobe walls at removed coating areas. In addition the fabrication and installation of new adobe block for areas of extreme deterioration, applied lime based mortar at all removal areas, preparation of surfaces and application of whitewash/lime based paint to first and second floor of Convento wing, recoated wood railings and window exteriors, and restored metal window grills as specified.

Mission Santa Barbara successfully completed Phase II of the Convento restoration project. Information and treatments used to treat moisture inside the mission walls will be shared with other missions with similar problems.
In its 10th year, the CMF “All-Aboard-the-Bus” program continues to enable fourth grade students to experience history firsthand and to connect what students have learned in the classroom with real places and historical objects.

In the Greater Los Angeles Area, CMF awarded grants to 22 schools (five more than last school year and an increase of 390 students). Overall, this funding allowed 1,978 students and 213 teachers and chaperones to visit Missions San Fernando and San Gabriel.

In Monterey County, CMF awarded grants to 24 schools (eight more than last school year and an increase of 817 students). 2,228 students and 359 teachers and chaperones participated in field trips to Missions San Juan Bautista and San Antonio de Padua.

Funding for the program is provided through generous grants from the William H. Hannon Foundation, the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, the Pebble Beach Company Foundation, and the Upjohn California Fund. The “All-Aboard-the-Bus” program inspires future generations to pursue educational endeavors and to take an interest in the history, preservation, and restoration of the 21 California Missions and related historical sites.

Ms. Gloria Cano, Boronda Meadows Elementary School, Salinas:
“Our fourth graders...had lots of fun and great academic experiences...It gave the students the knowledge needed to make sense of the material covered in class. They were able to look and ask questions. They even brought their Science knowledge out with the San Andreas Fault...Lupita, one of the chaperones, said, “it is amazing to see the kids’ faces when they get to see the things you talked about in class.” This was a great experience for kids and adults.”

Nicholas, Fourth Grade Student, Howard Wood Elementary, Torrance:
“The trip to Mission San Gabriel was definitely one of a kind...I loved the history of the Indians and garden...I found most interesting the six bells, the replicas of all the missions, the gift from the king of Spain, and the church which had surprisingly thick walls and big doors. I was surprised that the church as well as the mission had been struck by an earthquake three times! This is not a field trip I would forget.”

Ms. Linda Kim, Walnut Elementary School, Walnut:
“Thank you once again for your contribution that made our field trip to the mission possible. Thank you for bringing history to life for our students and allowing them to make enduring understandings and connections with the history of California.”

Ms. Gloria Cano, Boronda Meadows Elementary School, Salinas:
“Our fourth graders...had lots of fun and great academic experiences...It gave the students the knowledge needed to make sense of the material covered in class. They were able to look and ask questions. They even brought their Science knowledge out with the San Andreas Fault...Lupita, one of the chaperones, said, “it is amazing to see the kids’ faces when they get to see the things you talked about in class.” This was a great experience for kids and adults.”

Ms. Natalie Alvarez, Castroville Elementary School, Castroville:
“Castroville School had a great time at the San Juan Bautista Mission. The students especially enjoyed analyzing the architecture and comparing the mission to their research and texts. Many students were surprised by their conclusions and findings, and many were enlightened...When students got back they engaged in deep discussions about what happened at the missions and how it led to the mission system today in California...All in all, the mission field trip enriched their knowledge and sparked their discussions. We are all very thankful for it.”
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In memory of Edward Burquez
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The California Missions Foundation is dedicated to preserving the historical California Missions and their associated cultural resources for public benefit.

To continue supporting CMF, please visit our website:
www.californiamissionsfoundation.org
or contact us at (805) 963-1633, or info@californiamissionsfoundation.org

You can make a legacy gift to CMF that will support the Missions beyond your lifetime. Your estate attorney can assist you in determining what is best for you. Please let us know if you have made a planned gift to CMF or have any questions.

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